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Office of Recovery Newsletter | February 25, 2022

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February 25, 2022



This week's edition of the Office of Recovery Newsletter features an article that details the Building a Stronger Economy (BASE) program's upcoming deadline to submit applications. This program offers matching funding for economic development projects that are focused on expanding the state's base of businesses and residents.

We have also provided an update on the Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Executive Committee and the four SPARK Advisory Panels as they begin to review the submissions gathered from the SPARK Investment Idea Submission Form.

Also included is an article highlighting information and resources that can help Non-Entitlement Units (NEUs) of local government navigate the US Treasury Reporting Portal to submit the first ARPA funding Project and Expenditure Report.

For the latest information about resources available to Kansans, see the "Updates to Services and Support" section of this newsletter. For the most up-to-date information, please visit the Office of Recovery website at: COVID.ks.gov

SPARK Updates





Department of Commerce BASE Program Application Closes February 28

The [Building a Stronger Economy \(BASE\) Program grant application](#) opened on Monday, February 1, 2022. The BASE program offers matching funds to address economic development opportunities with the goal of expanding the state's base of businesses and residents as we continue to recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The BASE grant application process will close on Monday, February 28, at 11:59 p.m. Grant awardees will be announced no earlier than March 25, 2022.

In December 2021, the SPARK Executive Committee approved \$100M in available federal COVID-19 relief funding for eligible economic development and infrastructure proposals. Projects that qualify under the requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) may receive matching funds to facilitate project completion.

County and local governments, Economic Development Organizations, local Chambers of Commerce, and other stakeholders are eligible to apply. Awardees will be provided with 50% of award allocation in calendar year 2022. The remaining 50% of funding will be provided no earlier than January 2023.

Applicants can contact CommerceSPARK@ks.gov for any questions regarding this funding opportunity.





Stay Informed on the SPARK Process

The Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Executive Committee oversees the distribution process of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding, assisted by four advisory panels with additional members. The Advisory Panels are focused on four main topic areas: Health and Education, Economic Revitalization, Connectivity, and Efficiency and Modernization.

On January 27, 2022, the SPARK Executive Committee launched an Investment Idea Submission Form for the public to submit their investment ideas for the use of State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF) allocated to Kansas through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The Submission form closed on February 16, 2022. Over 750 total submissions from various stakeholders across the state were received.

The four Advisory Panels will meet over the coming weeks to develop investment recommendations for the SPARK Executive Committee to consider. Panels will look at investment idea submissions to help shape programmatic level recommendations. The Executive Committee will then consider these panel recommendations before sending them to the State Finance Council, which has final authority on investment decisions.

Additional updates will be provided throughout the SPARK process. All Advisory Panel meetings have and will continue to be streamed on the [Kansas Office of Recovery YouTube Page](#). Meeting materials and recordings

can also be found on our website: [Advisory Panels Materials](#).

If you have any questions, please visit <https://covid.ks.gov/> and click on “Contact Us” on the top right corner.

Treasury Information



Navigating the US Treasury ARPA Reporting Portal

As a reminder, all Non-Entitlement Units of government (NEUs) that accepted funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) are required to submit the first Project and Expenditure Report to the US Treasury by the deadline of April 30, 2022.

The Office of Recovery has received several inquiries on how to navigate the Treasury Reporting Portal. We have listed below a few useful resources to trouble shoot any problems you may have with the portal.

The [US Treasury Login.gov Reference Guide](#) provides step-by-step instructions on accessing and navigating the login and reporting process. Also available is the [Project and Expenditure Report User Guide](#) that details how to create and submit a report. Treasury also released the following

webinars that walk through each step in the process of reporting for ARPA funding.

- [Project and Expenditure Reports](#)
- [Reporting Tiers](#)
- [Account Creation and Logging In](#)
- [Designating User Roles in the Treasury Portal](#)
- [Using Bulk Upload for Reporting](#)

You can also contact the US Treasury at SLFRP@treasury.gov if you continue to have issues.

As a reminder only the Authorized Representative on the ARPA Application (Unless specifically changed by request through the US Treasury) can access the portal, make changes and assign roles. If you are unsure of who the Authorized Representative is for your local government, please feel free to reach out to the Office of Recovery using the [CONTACT US](#) form on the Office of Recovery website and we will be happy to provide that to you.

Updates to Services and Support



Resources for ARPA Funding Reporting and Compliance

The Office of Recovery has also created two separate documents that act as guides for spending and reporting your ARPA funds. You can review the [ARPA NEU Information Packet](#) and [Treasury Key Principles: Compliance Areas of Focus](#) for information on reporting deadlines, eligible and ineligible uses of ARPA funds and helpful links and resources.

Office of Recovery Q&A Sessions

Join us on Wednesday, March 9, at 11 a.m. for an opportunity to ask the Office of Recovery questions about applying for funds, guidance from Treasury, upcoming deadlines, and other topics. These Q&A sessions are also an opportunity for local governments to share what they are doing and learn from one another.

You can join the session by registering here: [Register for Q&A Session](#)

Local Government Webinar

The Office of Recovery will be hosting a webinar on Wednesday, March 16, at 11 a.m. This webinar will be a step-by-step walkthrough of the Treasury registration and reporting process.

You can register for this webinar here: [Webinar Registration](#)

Contact the RO

The Office of Recovery is here to offer support and coordination. Questions and inquiries may be submitted via the [Contact Us](#) form. Please visit covid.ks.gov for up-to-date information and resources on recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic for Kansas residents, businesses, and communities.

[Question/Request Form](#)

DeAngela Burns-Wallace, Ed.D.

Secretary, Kansas Department of Administration

On behalf of the Office of Recovery,

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly

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